

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (original): A surge protector comprising:
an insulating member having a conductive film divided by a discharge gap interposed therebetween;
a pair of main discharge electrode members opposite to each other contacting the conductive film;
an insulating tube fitted to the pair of main discharge electrode members opposite to each other to seal both the insulating member and a sealing gas inside thereof; and
oxide films formed on main discharge surfaces of the pair of main discharge electrode members by performing an oxidation treatment.

Claim 2 (currently amended): A surge protector according to claim 1, comprising:
a column-shaped insulating member having a conductive film divided by a discharge gap interposed in an intermediate of a peripheral surface;
a pair of main discharge electrode members opposite to each other on both ends of the insulating member contacting the conductive film;
an insulating tube fitted to the pair of main discharge electrode members opposite to each other to seal both the insulating member and a sealing gas inside thereof,
wherein the main discharge electrode members comprise:
peripheral portions attached to end faces of the insulating tube by blazing filler metal;
protrusive supporting portions protruding toward an inside and an axial direction of the insulating tube and supporting the insulating member in the radial inner surface thereof, and

oxide films formed on main discharge surfaces of the protrusive supporting portions of the pair of main discharge electrode members opposite to each other, by performing an oxidation treatment.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The surge protector according to claim 1 or 2, wherein each of the oxide films has an average thickness in the range of 0.01 to 2.0 μm .

Claim 4 (currently amended): The surge protector according to ~~claim any one of claims 1 to 3,~~

wherein the main discharge electrode members contain Cr enriched on the surface of the oxide films.

Claim 5 (new): The surge absorber according to claim 2, wherein each of the oxide films has an average thickness in the range of 0.01 to 2.0 μm .

Claim 6 (new): The surge protector according to claim 2, wherein the main discharge electrode members contain Cr enriched on the surface of the oxide films.

Claim 7 (new): A method of forming a surge protector, comprising the steps of:
forming a pair of main discharge electrode members;
forming oxide films on main discharge surfaces of the main discharge electrode members;
placing a column-shaped ceramic member, having a conductive film separated by a discharge gap, on a central area between the main discharge electrode members;
placing at least one cylindrical ceramic member between the main discharge electrode members;

interposing a blazing filler metal material between the main discharge electrode members and the at least one cylindrical ceramic member;

forming a vacuum around the surge protector;

heating the surge protector in a sealing gas atmosphere until the blazing filler metal is melted; and

rapidly cooling the surge protector.

Claim 8 (new): The method of claim 7, further comprising the step of forming a pair of cap-shaped electrodes as the main discharge surfaces, wherein the oxide films are formed on the cap-shaped electrodes.

Claim 9 (new): The method of claim 8, further comprising the step of plugging gaps between the cap-shaped electrodes and the main discharge electrode members using the blazing filler metal.

Claim 10 (new): The method of claim 8, further comprising the step of forming a lead wire from each of the cap-shaped electrodes.

Claim 11 (new): The method of claim 7, further comprising the steps of:
forming a protrusive supporting portion having an opening, on each of the main discharge electrode members; and

inserting the column-shaped ceramic member through the opening.